

“The Teen Toolkit: Providing Reliable Resources to Students”

— Jaclyn Spraetz

Common information seeking behaviors:

- Teens like to stay up to date with current information and technologies, but do not like to take risks in seeking out new informational resources they are not familiar with.
- While teens like to have their interests validated by peers, they do not often take the risk of sharing their interests with others.
- Teens will turn to personal sources for help if they feel they can trust them.
- Teens choose informational resources that are easy to access and use.

**THE TEEN TOOLKIT:
PROVIDING RELIABLE RESOURCES TO STUDENTS**

What kind of information do teens look up?

Reasons for creating the guide online:

- Could provide one place for students to access reliable resources.
- The online guide can be viewed on their desktop, laptop, or smartphone.
- Guide could display short videos that explain the guide instead of using long text.
- A great avenue to add other types of information sources, like podcasts and youtube channels, to give variety to the guide.
- The online guide also provides a way to contact the librarian to help students

Open Resources

- arXiv (www.arXiv.org)
Contains 1,209,410 e-prints in Physics, Math, Computer Science, Biology, and Statistics.
- Bartleby (www.bartleby.com)
“The preeminent Internet publisher of literature, reference, and verse providing students with unlimited access to books and information on the web, free of charge.”
- CK-12 (www.ck12.org)
“Provides a library of free online textbooks, videos, exercises, flashcards, and real world applications for over 5,000 concepts from arithmetic to history.”
- Hathitrust (www.hathitrust.org)
“A partnership of academic & research institutions, offering a collection of millions of titles digitized from libraries around the world.”
- Internet Archive (www.archive.org)
“A non-profit digital library offering free universal access to books, movies, and music, as well as 275 billion archived web pages.”
- PLOS (www.plos.org)
The Public Library of Science contains 160,000+ peer-reviewed articles that are free to “access, reuse, and redistribute.”

Teens are not simply ‘older children’ – they have reached a developmental stage that requires a different strategic approach in order to effectively understand, connect with, and serve them.” – YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association)

“I look up a lot of things for school, but I really like politics so I tend to look up articles and read about them a lot.”

“School, Entertainment, Celebrity Gossip.”

“Book summaries, what kind of government Canada has, AP U.S. History questions, and music videos. I went to websites that I thought looked trustworthy.”

“I looked up some information on priest stereotypes to learn more about my topic for media arts, I have recently been searching for a car to purchase for myself, and I’ve also recently searched for new music, as well as some clothing.”

“Entertainment and news.”

“DNA replication, I went to Google. Free coloring pages on Google. Free movie downloads on Google. Neko Astume hacks on Google.”

“1. good sandwiches; 2. orange prom tux; 3. octopus top hat.”

“Usually from school, or if I heard about something I’ll research to see if it’s true. Or if I want to learn more about politics, or current events in general.”

“Entertainment, school, college information, and political information.”